

November, 2005

Mr. John L. Margowski, Director

Veterans Affairs Announces Unified Fundraising Effort For New Handicapped-Accessible Buses

(MADISON) -- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs announces a new fundraising effort to raise money for buses at state veterans homes.

"Wisconsin veterans have a long and proud tradition of taking care of their own," stated John A. Scocos, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. "The veterans community has repeatedly told me they are ready and willing to lead the way in our quest for three new handicapped-accessible buses for our Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove."

The goal for the unified fundraising effort is \$350,000. Donors will receive a letter acknowledging their donation and their names will be included on a special public display located at each facility. Donations will be set aside in a special fund used solely for the purpose of purchasing these three buses.

"While we know the veterans organizations will lead the charge in this effort, we also hope to garner the support of the many civic and fraternal organizations, foundations, and private individuals throughout Wisconsin, and beyond, who realize the value of this important project," said Scocos. "Wisconsin is keenly aware of the sacrifices made by our veterans. With the success of this effort, the veterans who live in our homes at King and Union Grove will be able to enjoy many off-grounds trips to attend events outside their facilities, including baseball games, stock car races, visits to veterans clubs, meal outings, bingo games, fall color tours, museums and many other activities."

Scocos has named Rich Calcut as chairman of the WDVA Unified Fundraising Effort. Calcut, an Air Force veteran and a 21-year employee at the King Home, serves as the Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Secretary Scocos said, "Rich was instrumental in the WDVA fundraising efforts for the 'King Koach' back in 1992. With his experience in fundraising and working with so many organizations over the years, we are confident of a positive outcome for our fundraising efforts."

Donations are already starting to come in. Contributions are tax-deductible and checks should be made payable to WISCONSIN VETERANS HOMES BUS FUND. Donations and information regarding potential donors should be mailed to:

Rich Calcut - Public Information Officer
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